## Stirring Novel of Love, Conspiracy and Thrilling Adventure

at you. Expect me. Replacing the message in its envelope, she put it away in his pocket while applying the remedies always kept at hand for these heart attacks; and as soon as he was able to be moved, she had him taken to bed.

"He asked for the telegram, and appeared relieved when it was found in his pocket. When the doctor strived the rich man was in condition of in-tense nervous excitement and suffering

tense nervous excitement and suffering severely from shock.

The message had, indeed, disturbed him profoundly. It had served to reopen the one page of his life of which he, was bitterly ashamed, in the long distant past, more than twenty years before, he had been entangled in the toils of a beautiful and unscrupulous woman. In his infatuation he had been estaged of an act which would have brought him under the law, had he not then learned the character of the woman and fied the country.

Altough innocent of the crime, he had since made reparation a hundredfold for it; but the remembrance of that chapter of his life had been like a scourge of scorpions to a man of his

a scourge of scorpions to a man of his naturaly honorable character and ner vous, sensitive asposition. He had worn the sackcloth and ashes of reworn the sackcloth and asses of re-morseful repentance for all the years between; and the thought that the secret was now about to be revealed to the world, made him cringe and cower in morbid wretchedness and bitter suffering.

All that day and night and the next

All that day and night and the next day he lay miserably discounting the consequences. The revelation could not have dome at a worse moment. His beloved Olive was about to make a marriage on which her whole happiness depended; and if the facts were known, it seemed to him in his morbid fear her life would be wrecked.

In the afternoon he took his resolution. The marriage must be hastened so as to take place before this terrible news could be told, before the woman who could tell it, that was, could reach the country. He could make the excuse that his health alarmed him, and when once she was married, he would face the trouble if necessary, or find some means of allencing this woman.

Late in the afternoon he went downstales is court out the land. Late in the afternoon he went downstairs to carry out this plan.

He found Olive at the plane, and

after she had finished one of his favorite songs—she had a rich, soft mezzo-soprano voice—he called her to sit by him.

Jack at Belborough, Olive?" he

"Is Jack at Belborough, Olive?" he asked.
"No, father. He has gone back to his work at the Foreign Office."
"Wire to him that he must come to-morrow child. I want your marriage to be hastened forward. It must take place at once-within a week."
"Why, dear?"
"Do as I say, child. Now"; was the

and then returned to her seat by him.

and you shared it with me."
"But he waved his hand faintly and

closed his eyes, as if worn out. He lay for some minutes like this. Then he started up suddenly and spoke with great impressiveness and some show of excitement.

"Remember what I say, Olive, Your marriage must, take place within the

week, or it may never take place at all. Write to Mr. Casement that he must be here to-morrow with all the



be hastened forward. It must take see at once—within a week."

"Why, dear?"

"Do as I say, child. Now"; was the most testily spoken reply.

She went and dispatched the message of their returned to her seat by him.

"Now tell me, dear," she said, with gentle smile, with gentle smile. "Olive, unable to refrain from the little sting."

"I have not had the advantages of your ladyship's birth, but I know," rebeen explained, Jack." And with that torted Olive, unable to refrain from the little sting.

I think, to hurry matters on. It will ease his mind to do what no wishes. It he knows you are happy—and I think we can answer that you will be that—it will prolong his life."

"I am very troubled about him, Jack, and so is Dr. Gregory."

"We'll do our best to make him as happy as we mean to be, the then, if happiness makes for long life, he will have many, many years to like yet."

"I suppose it is foolish," replied Olive, suppressing a sigh, "but I cannot shake off a feeling of depression, as it something were going to happen."

pen."

Jack laughed. "Something is going Jack laughed. "Something is going to he married." He took her hand and drew her to him just as the door opened to admit the others.

Mr. Parmenter having gained his way was in good spirits, gave Jack a warm greeting, and asked laughing.

way was in good spirits, gave Jack a warm greetling, and asked laughingly if he was much put out by the 
change of plan. Jack replied in the 
same spirit, and then whispered to 
Olive that her father was looking better than he had seen him for some 
time past.

"He is excited, that is all," she repiled. "When we are alone the reaction will come. You will see then 
how really ill he is."

She proved to be right, Jack remained after his father and mother 
had gone, and when he and Olive returned from a ramble in the grounds 
they found Mr. Parmenter lying very 
still and white in the library.

"I am paying the price for my 
efforts this morning," he said, smiling 
feebly. "It is a good thing that the 
marriage is to be hurried on."

The days that intervened were full

marriage is to be nurried on.

The days that intervened were full ones for Olive. There was much to be done to get ready, and Mr. Parmenter was always urging haste, more haste, as though the issue of his own life depended upon the completion of the arrangements.

As the days passed his nervous rest-

arrangements.

As the days passed his nervous restlessness and agitation increased. His temper, usually calm and even, suffered. He grew querulous and fidgety and asked a hundred times a day if everything was getting well forward. And, strangest of all, Olive often found him lingering in the hall as if on the watch for some one.

On the eve of the wedding day this watchfulness developed almost into eccentricity. He passed some hours actually at the big gates of the drive, and when Olive sought to get him to

and when Olive sought to get him to testily and at others with fretful impatience.

The preparations for the wedding were hurried forward with all speed meanwhile. It was to be a very simple ceremony. Three bridesmalds, Jack's only sister. Winifred, and two of Olive's friends, a friend of Jack's from the Foreign Office as best man; Lord and Lady Belborough, Mr. Caserment the lawyer; and Dr. Gresorment the lawyer; and Dr.



you," cried Olive in deep distress.
"It is easy to say that," was the sneering reply. "But this marriage will do it in any event. You have always taken pleasure in thwarting and humiliating ine and every one at the Castle."

"I am very sory you think that. I and the control of the country of the country of the carriages, when Dr. Gregory came in search of her.
"I wish to speak to you about your father, Miss Parmenter," he raid, and his look was very grave. "I really doubt if he ought to go to the church.

"I am very sory you think that. I has look was very grave. "I really doubt if he ought to go to the church. Olive.
"Mother, how can you?" exclaimed "Where is he?"

Olive.
"Mother, how can you?" exclaimed
Jack hotly.

were hurried forward with all speed meanwhile. It was to be a very simple caremony. Three bridesmaids, Jack's only sister, Winifred, and two of Olive's friends, a friend of Jack's only sister, Winifred, and two of Olive's friends, a friend of Jack's only sister, Winifred, and two of Olive's friends, a friend of Jack's only sister, Winifred, and two of Olive's friends, a friend of Jack's only sister, Winifred, and two of Olive's friends, a friend of Jack's only sister, Winifred, and two of Olive's friends, a friend of Jack's only sister, Winifred, and two of Olive's friends, a friend of Jack's only sister, Winifred, and two of Olive's all, in this way I shall refuse to go to the dange in him in the last few days. He is worse than I have ever known his way I shall refuse to go to the whole congregation. The interruption was so entirely unstantiated think you, that can account for it? He is in a state of intense nervous expected that for the moment the dimin. Has he anything on his mind, think you, that can account for it? He is in a state of intense nervous expected that for the moment the whole congregation. The interruption was so entirely unstantiated think you, that can account for it? He is in a state of intense nervous expected that for the moment the old man, it is an account for it? He is in a state of intense nervous expected that for the moment the whole congregation. The interruption was so entirely unstantiated of intense nervous expected that for the moment the whole one, which were intended to he whole congregation. The interruption was so entirely unstantiated the whole congregation. The interval and only view days in close attendance on Mr.

Whater less he?" let him in the listery with Mr.

Casement: I cannot account for the change in him in the last few days.

He is wors than I have ever known think wou, that can account for it? He is in a state of intense nervous expected that for the moment. It is not a state of intense nervous expected that for the moment. It is nown has been very nuch excited Tow tell m, dear? The said with the Textured to her seat by him.

Tow tell m, dear? The said with the Cilius washed to graften from the say of the company to the say of the company the said with the many that the said with the terms of the company that the said with the said with the many that the said with the said with the many that the said the poor must really be careful. The said news to be married to merror. The winds are made with a said with the said of the company that the said with the said with the many that the said the poor must really be careful. The said news the said with the many thing but hell give remains and will be said to the poor must really be careful. The said the poor must really be careful. The poor

I say."

To humor him she went out, leaving him staring after her almost

Only the carriages, dearest, as I said," she told him.
"Thank God," he cried, and fell back

said," she told him.
"Thank God," he cried, and fell back white and trembling.

She called the doctor back then and told him that her father insisted upon going to the church, and that she thought it would be risky to attempt to thwart him. He agreed; and in this way they waited until all the rest had gone and the carriage was waiting for Olive and her father.

Then he rallied his strength, rose from the couch and ied Olive out. But she could feel that he was trembling with excitement.

All the way to the church he kept looking out nervously from the carriage window; and his agitation increased so that when the reached the lychgate and were walking up the path Olive had to half support him.

"Thank God at last" he murmured.

nim.
"Thank God, at last," he murmured as they reached the porch. Hé had to pause a moment from weakness; and the doctor, who was waiting there, offered his arm. But he refused it

pause a moment from weakness; and the doctor, who was waiting there, offered his arm. But he refused it testily.

"I am better now," he said with a smile, as they started up the aisle.

The little church was packed with people from all the district; and a murmur of admiration rustled among the congregation as Olive and her father appeared, and necks were craned and all heads turned to see her.

Rarely lovely she looked, as with head slightly bent she passed up to the altar rail, where Jack was waiting in mingled delight, anticipation and nervousness.

Olive herself was quite solf-possessed; and what the onlookers mistook for, the nervousness of a bride was really anxiety on account of her father. She was glad to see that he appeared now to shake off the depression and fear which had so disturbed her; and he took his place with quiet dignity and pleasure.

As the ciergyman commenced the short and solemn exposition of the estate of matrimony and ended with the demand that "if any man can shew any just cause why they may not be lawfully joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter forever hold his peace," the old man lifted his head and looked round the building with a sigh of intense relief.

But in that second his expression changed.

A woman closely veiled came quickly up the aisle and raised her hand.

"Stop I forbid the banns," she cried, in a loud, ringing voice.

All eyes were instantly turned upon her and a quiver of excitement moved the whole congregation.

The interruption was so entirely unexpected that for the moment the clergyman himself was at a loss what to say.

"Who are you, and what is the nature of your objection?" he asked at length.

"It's—it's"—but the words would not come; and suddenly he clutched at his throat, gasped spasmodically for breath, and uttered a despairing groan as he slipped from Oilve's arm. He fell forward on his face and lay huddled upon the altar steps.

As he fell, an involuntary exclamation broke from many of those present; and every man and woman in the church was wrought up to a pitch of intense excitement.

A great huch followed, as Dr. Greg-

Intense excitement.

A great hush followed, as Dr. Greg-ory bent over the millonaire; and in solemn, awe-inspiring silence, the whole congregation waited for the re-sult of his examination.

(To Be Continued Next Sunday.)

CHINESE SEVEN AGES. Unknown Philosopher Pictures the

Course of the Life of Man.
A French officer, Louis de Chantilly, tells in Paris Gil Blas of his discovery in a Buddhist convent in the mountains of Tonkin of a dusty manuscript containing the Chinese version of the seven ages of man.

"At ten years old," says the writer, whose name has long been forgotten, "the boy has a heart and a brain as soft as the tender shoot of a young bamboo. At twenty he is like a green banana; he is just beginning to ripen varm rays of common sense.

## Mr. Dooley on the Hague Conference

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